

What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



17,846 Employers



92,944 Workers



\$119,209 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in IT?

IT professionals are drivers of innovation and interact with every level of an organization's structure. The Information Technology industry has over 17,800 employers that provide jobs to nearly 93,000 workers. Wages in this industry average \$119,209, much higher than the private industry average of \$64,754 in Missouri. Employment increased at a rate of 1.4 percent per year from 2019 to 2024 and represents 3.7 percent of all private sector employment. Missouri's IT industry overall has a lower employment concentration compared to the rest of the nation, however, some sectors within this industry have higher concentrations in the state, such as *Internet Service Providers, Web Search Portals, and Data Processing Services*.

From Help Desk Technicians to Software Developers, there are various job opportunities in the IT sector. High wages and projected growth make IT occupations a good career choice in Information Support Services and Programming & Development.

Know the Basics

Information Technology careers often involve interactions with clients and team members, so good communication skills and maintaining a professional demeanor are important. With technology constantly evolving and new innovations being discovered, a willingness to learn and apply new knowledge and skills is crucial for success in this industry. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries, including Information Technology.

Skills needed for Success:

Information Technology has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Knowledge of databases, applications, networks, telecommunications, and software are important. IT professionals need to be able to provide assistance and technical support to customers and clients. Some of the skills needed for success in this industry include the ability to ensure products and services comply with both legal and regulatory requirements, as well as applying critical and analytical thinking to address problems.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Datavant

Concentrix

Eurofins

World Wide Technology

Jack Henry & Associates



Information Support Services

Programming & Development

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Most Information Technology occupations require proven skills beyond a high school diploma. Some industry-recognized certifications that may launch a career in Information Technology, such as CompTIA or Microsoft Technology Associate, may be obtained in as little as three months. Occupations in the Next and Later categories require knowledge and experience using specific programming languages and skill sets.

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Computer User Support Specialists
Entry: \$41,910 Average: \$57,640

Desktop Publishers
Entry: \$44,980 Average: \$48,940

Degrees: Computer Support Specialist; Information Technology
Certificates: Certified A+; Network+; Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA)

Degrees: Prepress/Desktop Publishing & Digital Imaging Design
Certificates: Computer Typography

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Computer Systems Analysts
Entry: \$64,210 Average: \$94,680

Information Security Analysts
Entry: \$78,210 Average: \$107,250

Database Administrators
Entry: \$63,130 Average: \$94,990

Software Developers
Entry: \$82,990 Average: \$114,240

Computer Programmers
Entry: \$73,810 Average: \$95,230

Graphic Designers
Entry: \$43,250 Average: \$56,450

Web Developers
Entry: \$73,240 Average: \$114,790

Degrees: Computer Science; Information Technology; Computer Systems Analysis

Degrees: Computer Science; Information Technology; Computer Engineering; Digital Arts

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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